

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Expedition is about President Thomas Jefferson's dream, the planning and preparation required for an early 19th-century military expedition, and then finally about the journey itself; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River portion of the expedition was the proving ground for handling the keelboat and pirogues upstream on the way to St. Louis, Missouri, Wood River, Illinois, and St. Charles, Missouri in preparation for their assault on the Missouri River; and

WHEREAS, members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition comprising the Corps of Discovery, became residents of the Upper Louisiana Territory and its successor the Missouri Territory after their return. Both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark served as Governors of the Upper Louisiana Territory while other members of the expedition resided in the territory; and

WHEREAS, members of the Missouri Delegation would support members of the Kentucky Delegation, the primary sponsor of legislation before Congress, which would have amended the National Trails System Act by extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation or the return phase of the expedition; and

WHEREAS, members of the Kentucky Delegation will introduce legislation calling for a feasibility study on extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to the east; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation supports recognition of a continuous trail across the country on the National Park Service's official trail map and the right to post the official trail signs - Two Captains Pointing the Way - which are posted throughout the West; and

WHEREAS, the extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from coast to coast would complete the story and expose a broader base of Americans to the educational and cultural aspects of the expedition; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation believes that the status quo does not adequately recognize Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson where he dreamed his vision for America, Washington D.C., where he shared his dream with Meriwether Lewis, or a variety of other significant places throughout the Eastern Legacy states; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation partners with the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in caring for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and also supports scholarship, educational efforts, and research on the expedition:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby support and urge the Missouri Congressional Delegation to support legislation calling for federal approval of extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.